



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

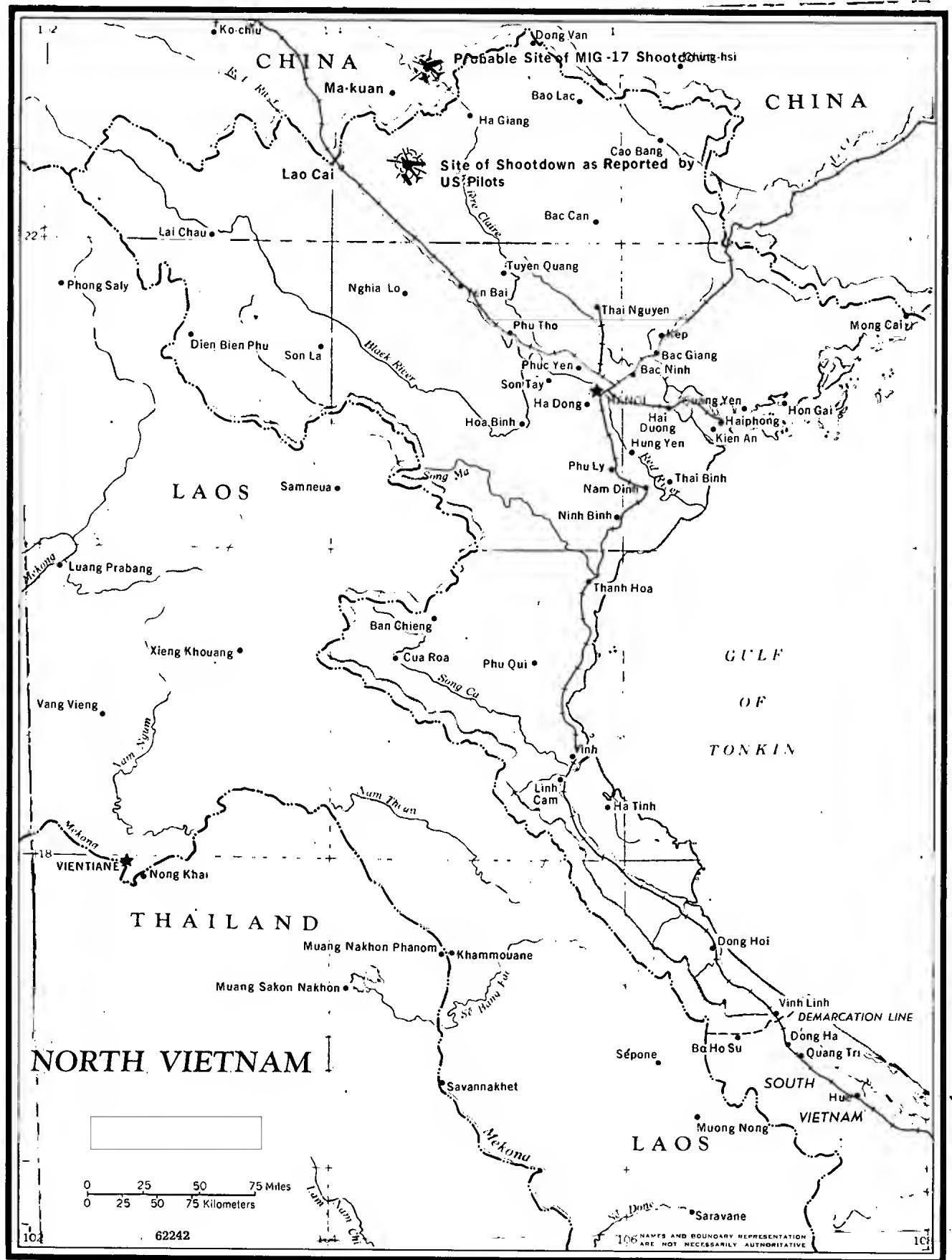


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13 MAY 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
13 MAY 1966

1. Vietnam

Chinese probably believe that their MIG fighter was indeed shot down yesterday over China.

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Peking's first public reaction to the incident suggests that the Chinese do not intend an immediate or major act of retaliation, such as the Chinese ground action which Chou En-lai has alluded to as a possible counter to US air or sea attacks. The ominous notes sounded appear largely to be atmospherics.

Peking may in fact interpret the shootdown as an American response to the Chinese attempt to attack US aircraft over North Vietnam on 8 May.

2. South Vietnam

Premier Ky now says he will make no further comments to the press on the subject of elections. The Buddhists, he claims, might be the first to sabotage elections for an assembly since they know they cannot obtain a majority of the seats.

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3. France

France and the Soviets may sign a space cooperation agreement before De Gaulle's June trip to the USSR.

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[redacted] the Soviets renewed their offer to launch French satellites, and for the first time promised the French access to the launch site--presumably Tyuratam, where non-Communists have never been permitted.

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4. Communist China

[redacted]

5. Japan

China's nuclear test may shake Japan out of its long-standing belief that Peking is not a threat to Japan.

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[redacted]
Japanese press reaction to the test has almost uniformly warned of the possible Chinese Communist threat.

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6. India

As expected, the Chinese test appears already to have triggered a second round in India's great debate on nuclear policy. The US Embassy notes a significant shift in parliamentary opinion, with several deputies formerly opposed to Indian possession of the bomb now calling for immediate construction of one. The director of India's atomic energy establishment acknowledges that "parliamentary fallout" over the test is severe.

The pro-bomb forces will push their case vigorously, encouraged by their apparent feeling that Mrs. Gandhi will not offer as hard-nosed opposition as did Shastri. Parliament will adjourn next week, however, and after that proponents of the bomb will not have any well-publicized forum until the next session in mid-August.

7. Pakistan

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8. Argentina

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9. Iraq

Talks between leaders of the four-year-old Kurdish rebellion and the prime minister have reportedly foundered. [redacted]

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